

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting alert conditions in a market, comprising:
receiving a message in a system for a new quote for a trading item;
comparing the new quote to one or more existing quotes for the same item; and
transmitting an alert message in response to comparing if the new quote ~~causing~~
causes a locked or crossed market condition.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting ~~an~~ the alert
message is responsive to crossing quotes having prices differences greater than a preselected
threshold amount.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the existing quotes are inside
quotes.

a¹
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
updating one of the inside quotes in the system in response to the new quote being
one of a higher bid quote and a lower ask quote.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein comparing further comprises:
determining whether the received alert message is a duplicate of an earlier
received message; and
wherein transmitting is responsive to the received alert message not being a
duplicate.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, the trading item ~~being~~ a security.

Claims 7-52 (withdrawn)

53. (New) A method comprising:

a²
in a network, receiving a message in a server for a new quote for a trading item;
comparing the new quote to existing quotes for the same trading item; and

generating an alert if the new quote is determined to represent a usual quote value.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 further comprising transmitting the generated alert.

55. (New) The method of claim 53 in which the trading item is a security.

56. (New) The method of claim 53 in which the existing quotes are inside quotes.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising updating one of the inside quotes in response to the new quote being one of a higher bid quote and a lower ask quote.

Q2 58. (New) The method of claim 57 in which comparing further comprises determining whether the received message of an earlier received message.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 in which generating is responsive to the received message not being a duplicate.

60. (New) The method of claim 53 in which the usual quote value represents a locked market condition.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 in which the locked market condition occurs when an inside ask and bid quotes for the trading item are equal.

62. (New) The method of claim 53 in which the usual quote value represents a crossed market condition.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 in which the crossed market condition occurs when an inside bid quote is greater than an inside ask quote for the trading item.

64. (New) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for detecting alert conditions in a market, the computer program product being operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

receive a message for a new quote for a trading item;
compare the new quote to one or more existing quotes for the same item; and
transmit an alert message in response to comparing if the new quote causes a locked or crossed market condition.

65. (New) The product of claim 64 in which the existing quotes are inside quotes.

66. (New) The product of claim 65 further comprising:

update one of the inside quotes in response to the new quote being one of a higher bid quote and a lower ask quote.

67. (New) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for detecting alert conditions in a market, the computer program product being operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

receive a message in a network server for a new quote for a trading item;
compare the new quote to existing quotes for the same trading; and
generate an alert if the new quote is determined to represent an usual quote value.

68. (New) The product of claim 67 further comprising:

transmit the generated alert.
